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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp, comprising:
 - a discharge container including a discharge space and sealing sections formed at both edges of the discharge space;
 - a pair of electrodes arranged to face each other within the discharge space and held in the sealing sections; and
 - a discharge medium sealed in the discharge container, containing a light-emitting material formed of a metal halide and a rare gas, and essentially free from mercury,wherein the amount of water contained in the metal halide in the extinguishing stage of the metal halide lamp is not larger than ~~50~~ 20 ppm.
2. (original) A metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the metal halide includes at least a halide of zinc.
3. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein raw material of the metal halide having a water content not higher than ~~100~~ 50 ppm is sealed in the discharge space.
4. (original) A metal halide lamp according to claim 3, wherein a vacuum heat treatment is applied to the raw material of the metal halide.
5. (original) A metal halide lamp according to claim 3, wherein a heat treatment is applied to the raw material of the metal halide under an inert gas atmosphere.
6. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the metal halide contains an ~~excessively large~~ amount of the metal component ~~relative to~~ more than the stoichiometric

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amount.

7. (original) A metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein the light-emitting material includes a first metal halide formed of a halide of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of sodium, scandium and a rare earth element, and a second metal halide formed of a halide of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of zinc, magnesium, iron, cobalt, chromium, nickel, manganese, aluminum, antimony, beryllium, rhenium, gallium, titanium, zirconium and hafnium.

8. (original) A metal halide lamp according to claim 7, wherein the metal halide includes a halide of at least zinc.

9. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp according to claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ raw material of the metal halide having a water content not higher than 100 ppm is sealed in the discharge container.

10. (original) A metal halide lamp according to claim 9, wherein a vacuum heat treatment is applied to the raw material of the metal halide.

11. (original) A metal halide lamp according to claim 9, wherein a heat treatment is applied to the raw material of the metal halide under an inert gas atmosphere.

12. (currently amended) A metal halide lamp according to claim 7, wherein the metal halide contains an ~~excessively large~~ amount of the metal component ~~relative to~~ more than the stoichiometric amount.

13. (original) A headlight apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
the metal halide lamp according to any one of claims 1 to

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12; and

a headlight apparatus body for a vehicle having the metal halide lamp arranged therein and having an optical axis extending in the longitudinal direction of the discharge container included in the metal halide lamp.

14. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a metal halide lamp, comprising:

preparing a metal halide;

applying a vacuum heat treatment to the metal halide so as to obtain the raw material of the metal halide having a water content not higher than 100 ppm;

sealing the raw material of the metal halide in a discharge container provided with a pair of electrodes so as to obtain a metal halide lamp; and

lighting the metal halide lamp, followed by extinguishing the metal halide lamp so as to set the amount of water contained in the raw material of the metal halide in the extinguishing stage at 50 ppm or less.

15. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a metal halide lamp according to claim 14, wherein the vacuum heat treatment is carried out under a vacuum atmosphere not higher than 1×10^{-3} Pa and under the temperature falling within a range of between 300°C and 350°C.

16. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a metal halide lamp, comprising:

preparing a metal halide;

applying a heat treatment to the metal halide under an inert gas atmosphere so as to obtain the raw material of the metal halide having a water content not higher than 100 ppm;

sealing the raw material of the metal halide in a discharge container provided with a pair of electrodes so as to obtain a

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metal halide lamp; and

lighting the metal halide lamp, followed by extinguishing the metal halide lamp so as to set the amount of water contained in the raw material of the metal halide in the extinguishing stage at 50 ppm or less.

17. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a metal halide lamp according to claim 16, wherein the heat treatment under the inert gas atmosphere is carried out under an inert gas atmosphere of 1 kPa or less and under the temperature falling within a range of between 300°C and 350°C.

18. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a metal halide lamp, comprising:

preparing a metal halide;

sealing the metal halide in a discharge container provided with a pair of electrodes, followed by applying a heat treatment to the metal halide under an inert gas atmosphere so as to obtain the raw material of the metal halide having a water content not higher than 100 ppm and subsequently sealing the discharge container so as to obtain a metal halide lamp; and

lighting the metal halide lamp, followed by extinguishing the metal halide lamp so as to set the amount of water contained in the raw material of the metal halide in the extinguishing stage at 50 ppm or less.

19. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a metal halide lamp according to claim 18, wherein the heat treatment under the inert gas atmosphere is carried out under an inert gas atmosphere of 1 kPa or less and under the temperature falling within a range of between 300°C and 400°C.